

Maryland



2017

The Cecil County Health Department requested ATSDR's assistance to address their concerns regarding elevated levels of metals found in residential drinking water wells near the Pearce Creek Dredged Material Contaminant Area (DMCA). ATSDR evaluated environmental data from water samples collected by the health department from approximately 187 residential wells near the Pearce Creek DMCA to determine whether exposure to contaminants in water from these wells could harm people's health. While evaluating drinking water exposures for manganese, ATSDR determined that many residential wells contained manganese at levels of health concern. ATSDR concluded that children and adults who drank water from some residential wells with elevated levels of manganese for many years could potentially experience adverse neurological effects. ATSDR made recommendations for residents with private wells to use bottled water or treated water for drinking and cooking and to have their well water tested regularly. Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (MDHMH) and Cecil County Health Department collaborated to provide bottled water to residents. In addition, ATSDR worked with the health department to inform residents about the elevated manganese levels in many area wells.